

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 L-03 SCCT-01 /022 W
----- 065338

R 051625Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4380
INFO AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

UNCLAS BOGOTA 3421

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EAIR, CO
SUBJ: HIJACKING ATTEMPT FOILED

REF: STATE 069998

1. A HIJACKING ATTEMPT IN MEDELLIN WAS FRUSTRATED SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 29. DETAILS FOLLOWS PER FAA CHECKLIST.

2. FEBRUARY 29. ACES AIRLINES AEROLINEAS CENTRALES
DE COLOMBIA). NON-SCHEDULED SAUNDERS ST-27 TURBO-PROP,
REGISTERED IN COLOMBIA HK 1286. FLIGHT NO. 016. FLIGHT
PLAN MEDELLIN-APARTADO TURBO, ACTUAL ROUTE DURING
HIJACKING MEDELLIN-CHIGORDO-MEDELLIN. DEPARTURE AT 14:30
HRS, RETURN TO MEDELLIN AT 16:00, NINE PASSENGERS, THREE
CREW INCLUDING ONE STEWARDESS. NO AMERICANS. HIJACKER
BOARDED NORMALLY AT MEDELLIN, PURCHASED ONE-WAY TICKET TO
APARTADO. NO PASSENGERS SCREENING.
HIJACKING BEGAN SHORTLY AFTER TAKE-OFF. HIJACKER GOT UP
FROM SEAT, TOOK OUT REVOLVER, ENTERED CABIN AND ANNOUNCED
HIJACKING. INSTRUCTED CREW TO ADVISE CONTROLTOWER OF
HIJACKING AND TO DEMAND RANSOM OF TEN MILLION PESOS
(\$3000,000). SPOKE SPANISH. NO ONE THREATENED, INJURED,
OR TAKEN HOSTAGE, NO SERIOUS INJURIES TO PASSENGERS
OR CREW. HIJACKER WAS NERVOUS, APPEARED MENTALLY
UNSTABLE. MADE NO POLITICAL REMARKS. HE PERMITTED
COMMUNICATION WITH TOWER. HIJACKER INSTRUCTED PILOT
TO LAND IN CHIGORDO, WHERE HE FORCED PASSENGERS AND
STEWARDESS TO DISEMBARK. PILOT CONVINCED HIM OF NEED
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TO REFUEL, SO PLANE WITH CREW AND HIJACKER ABOARD RETURNED

TO MEDELLIN. NO REASONS GIVEN FOR HIJACKING. NO SAFETY
HAZARDS. MINIMAL CONVERSATION BETWEEN HIJACKER AND CREW
DURING FLIGHT. PLANE WAS SURROUNDED BY POLICE IN MEDELLIN
TIRES SHOT OUT IN ORDER TO PREVENT TAKE-OFF. HIJACKER
BECAME VERY UPSET WHEN POLICE SURROUNDED PLANE, AND HE
ATTEMPTED TO SHOOT POLICE. HE WAS THEN SHOT IN THE
THROAT THROUGH PLANE WINDOW BY POLICEMAN OUTSIDE, AT
APPROX. 17:00 HRS, THEN TAKEN TO HOSPITAL. HE DIED EIGHT
HOURS LATER. ONLY DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT WAS SHATTERED WINDOW
AND PUNCTURED TIRES. HIJACKER IDENTIFIED AS JOSE CARDONA,
26, BORN IN TITIRIBI, STATE OF ANTIOQUIA. FORMER
AGRICULTURAL LABORER WITH HISTORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS,
INCLUDING RECENTLY ATTEMPTED SUICIDE, AND ONE CONVICTION
FOR ROBBERY.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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